

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated on February 6, 2007. Claims 1, 11, 25, 31, 36, 42, and 62-64 are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1, 3-11, 25-31, 36-42, and 62-64 are now pending in this patent application.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 was objected to due to informalities. The Office Action asserts that claim 1, line 4 reciting “the user” lacks antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully traverses. The cited portion of claim 1 includes the phrase “using at least a portion of the user query to search ...” The phrase focused on in the objection is “the user,” but this is not the complete element recited. Instead, “the user query” is recited, which Applicant respectfully submits finds proper antecedent basis from claim 1, line 3, which recites “receiving from the end-user *a user query* ...” Thus, Applicant requests withdrawal of this basis of rejection of claim 1.

2. Claims 11, 31 and 42 were objected to due to informalities. The Office Action asserts that all claims recite the intended use language of “for performing” which does not actually have to take place. The Office Action states that the claims should be amended to recite more definite and direct language such as “to perform”. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 11, 31, and 42 to overcome these objections. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this basis of objection to these claims.

3. Claim 63 was objected to due to informalities. The Office Action asserts that Line 2 contains multiple instances of “that”. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 63 to overcome this objection. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this basis of objection to claim 63.

4. Claims 63 and 64 are asserted by the Office Action to both re-introduce “a concept” although previously introduced in preceding claims. The Office Action assert that it is not clear

if it is a new instance of “concept” or a reference to the original concept thus lacking antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claims 63 and 64 to overcome these objections. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this basis of objection to these claims.

5. Claim 64 is asserted by the Office Action to recite “a previous” and “an indication” again although previously introduced in preceding claims. The Office Action asserts that it is not clear if it is a new instance of “concept” or a reference to the original concept thus lacking antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection, in view of the amendment made in response to paragraph 4. from above.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-11, 25-28, 31, 36, 37, 40, 42 and 62-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Foulger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,578,022 B1). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Concerning claims 1, 25, and 36

Applicant cannot find in the cited portions of Foulger any disclosure of receiving a query, using the query to retrieve documents, extracting at least one concept feature from the documents, using the at least one concept feature to determine at least one matched concept, and then presenting to the end user an indication of a document and a matched concept, as presently similarly recited or incorporated in these claims.

Instead, Foulger apparently uses a suggestion engine 120 to search a suggestion space completely independently from what is contained in the returned documents. (*See, e.g.*, Foulger at col. 9, lines 50-60.) In contrast, the present claims present a more focused and flexible alternative that avoids the onerous burden of constructing a suggestion space—by extracting concepts out of the very retrieved documents that are returned by the search executed using the query.

In sum, because all elements of the present claims are apparently not disclosed in Foulger, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this basis of rejection of these claims.

For brevity, Applicant defers (but reserves the right to later present) remarks concerning the dependent claims, which are believed to include separately patentable subject matter, and the rejection of which is deemed moot in view of any remarks or amendments made with respect to the above independent claims.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 38, 39 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Foulger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,578,022 B1). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Claims 38, 39, and 41 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 36. As such, these dependent claims incorporate all the limitations of their parent independent claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above. For brevity, Applicants reserve the right to present further remarks concerning the patentable distinctiveness of such dependent claims, the rejection of which is deemed moot in view of any remarks or amendments made with respect to the above independent claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this basis of rejection of these claims.

Reservation of Rights

In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicant may not have equally addressed every assertion made in the Office Action, however, this does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicant reserves all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicant timely objects to such reliance on Official

Notice, and reserves all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicant reserves all rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request rejoinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6951 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

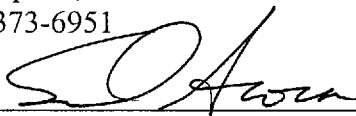
Respectfully submitted,

MAX COPPERMAN ET AL.

By their Representatives,

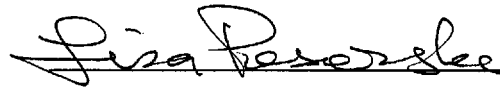
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Date April 5, 2007

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 5 day of April, 2007.

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